Annual Report

AS TO THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Depwade Rural District

For the Year 1923,

BY

FREDERICK N. H. MAIDMENT,

Medical Officer of Health.

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The Annual Report

For the Year 1923 of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HARLESTON,

March, 1924.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Tenth Annual Report on your Sanitary District, upon similar lines to the last, as suggested in the circular received from the Ministry of Health.

General Statistics.

The area of your District is 79,742 acres.

Population (1923). Total 19,090.

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 5,028.

Number of families and separate occupiers 4,878.

Rateable value £120,000, (approximately).

Sum represented by 1d. rate, £300 (approximately).

Vital Statistics.

Births. Legitimate 173 males, 156 Females. Total 329.
Illegitimate 11 Males, 11 Females. Total 22

Total Births 351. Birth rate 18·38 per 1,000.

Total Deaths 233. Death rate 12·20 per 1,000.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-birth From sepsis, nil. Other causes 1.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, per 1,000 births, Legitimate 54·7. Illegitimate 90·9. Total 56·97.

Deaths from Measles, nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough, nil.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) 1.

Ratio of actual Births registered to notifications received: 351 : 337.

Nursing Arrangements

The following private Associations are carrying out general nursing in the district:—

Redenhall with Harleston Nursing Association, employing 2 nurses and serving the parishes of Needham, Harleston, Starston, Wortwell, Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts.

Pulham and District Nursing Association serving the parishes of Pulham Market, Pulham Mary and Rushall.

Earsham District Nursing Association serving the parishes of Earsham, Alburgh and Denton.

Saxlingham Village Nursing Association serving the parish of Tasburgh.

Long Stratton Nursing Association serving the parishes of Stratton St. Mary. Stratton St. Michael, Fritton, Morningthorpe, Tharston and Wacton.

These Associations are financed mainly by voluntary subscriptions, with a capitation contribution from the Depwade Board of Guardians and grants from the County Council.

There is no arrangement existing in the district for the nursing of infectious cases.

Midwives.

There is no employment of Midwife by the Public Health Authority.

Five Midwives are practising in the District.

Clinics and Hospitals.

There is a Baby Welfare Centre at Harleston.

There is no General Hospital available in the District. General cases are usually sent to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital at Norwich. The Reynolds Robinson Nurses' Home, Harleston, has accommodation for one case of an emergency nature.

Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

During the year assistance has been given in 48 different cases, namely: 8 Expectant Mothers, 20 Nursing Mothers and 20 Young Children. A total of 16,374 pints of milk have been allowed at a cost of £153 4s. 0d.

The number of cases gradually increased from the beginning of the year, when 21 cases were being allowed about 30 pints of milk daily, to October when 38 cases were being allowed 56 pints daily. Notification was received at the end of September from the County Medical Officer of Health that owing to the Ministry of Health restricting the County Estimate for this work the allowance for Depwade on the population basis was about £30 per annum and in further correspondence the Committee were requested to limit allowances in accordance with a new scale prepared by Doctor Nash, the chief alteration being that the allowance

to young children should be restricted to cases under 1 year of age instead of 3 years as previously. The Committee revised all the cases on this basis and for December 24 cases were allowed about 26 pints of milk daily, but for next year your Committee have estimated their expenditure on the higherbasis and hope that this may be allowed by the Ministry.

In the Parishes served by Nursing Associations the Parish Nurses act as Local Correspondents, a voluntary lady visitor acting in each of the other Parishes and the thanks of the Council are due to these Correspondents who visit and report on the cases monthly. Without their assistance the work could not be carried on.

Ambulance

The Diss Ambulance is available free of charge for conveying to local Hospitals or the Workhouse patients from the following parishes in the District: Billingford, Bressingham, Burston, Dickleburgh, Fersfield, Gissing, Langmere, Roydon, Scole, Shelfanger, Shimpling, Thelveton and Winfarthing.

A British Red Cross Ambulance is stationed at Norwich. Application for the use of it should be made to Mrs. Fox, St. Giles Street, Norwich. Telephone No. 929. For this a mileage charge is made.

Laboratory Work, &c.

Water analyses. Total 14.

One sample of well water sent for bacteriological examination.

Number of Well Waters passed 8. Number condemmed 1. Number referred for cleaning 4. Number referred for improvements 1.

Number of Swabs examined for Diphtheria 23.

Number of Sputa examined for Tubercle Baccilli 1.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is issued from the County Laboratory on application by Medical Practitioners, and charged to the Account of the District Council, who decide whether to claim repayment from the patient. The name and address of the patient should be given when applying for Anti-toxin. The County Laboratory undertakes the examination of throat swabs and sputa free of charge. Other clinical work is done at fixed rates.

The treatment centre for Venereal Diseases is at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. The Medical Officer of Health will be pleased to supply information as to the days and hours of attendance, upon application.

Isolation Hospital.

The outbreak of Scarlet Fever, (21 cases), at Winfarthing, serves to point out the need for an Isolation Hospital, where certain selected cases could be sent. Here it was found impossible to secure any proper isolation in certain of the houses, with the inevitable result.

Here it is well to to say that the first meeting to discuss some kind of joint action in the provision of a central Isolation Hospital for the County was held at the Shirehall, Norwich on October 27th. Since this, various meetings of representatives of District Councils have been called, the last of which has put forward a scheme for the amalgamation of eight Councils in the Eastern part of the County in forming a joint Hospital Board, and building a Central Hospital near Norwich. This scheme can be recommended to the Council as likely to serve this pressing need in an efficient and economical way.

List of Adoptive Acts, &c., in force in the District.

Street watering powers for Harleston, 6th April, 1900.

Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885, 3rd September, 1906.

Building Bye-Laws, 3rd January, 1910.

Bye-laws with respect to Tents, Vans and similar Structures, 1st May, 1909.

Slaughter House Bye-Laws, 7th August, 1916.

Summary of the Work done by the Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supply.

One new Well has been sunk by private owner at Ashwellthorpe.

Sewers.

Dickleburgh. The brick sewer has been repaired and the crown covered with cement concrete.

Harleston. The brick sewers have been repaired at London Road, Broad Street, Wilsons Yard and Corn Hall Road.

Portions of the sewers at Broad Street have been renewed and encased in concrete.

The pipe sewers at Bullock Fair Yard and London Road have been repaired.

Jays Green. There is need for a new pipe sewer to join up the cottage property on Jays Green, Harleston, with the main sewer. This I have already made a special report upon, and your Sanitary Inspector has drawn up a Plan of the proposed line to be taken.

Pulham Market. The sewer has been repaired,

Pulham Mary. The sewer has been repaired.

Stratton St. Mary. A small length of the old gutter brick Sewer near Swan Lane has been replaced with glazed pipes and covered with cement concrete.

Starston. The sewer has been repaired.

INSPECTIONS — Bake-houses.

(Thirteen). These have been frequently inspected and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

One new Bakehouse has been erected and opened at Forncett St. Peter.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 14 Registered Slaughter Houses which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

One Registered Slaughter House at Needham has not been occupied since October 11th, 1923. (Included in above total).

There are 10 Licensed Slaughter Houses, 4 of which are licensed only for the slaughtering of pigs and sheep.

Application was made for Slaughter House License by Mr. English of Tibenham but was not granted as the premises are not suitable.

The 4 Knackers' Licenses were renewed.

Disinfectants.

Twenty-seven houses were supplied with disinfectants and the same number were fumigated.

Scarlet Fever,	15.	Diphtheria,	2.	Typhoid,	1.
Consumption	5.	Cancer,	2.	Other causes	2.

Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops.

Those which are registered are kept in a satisfactory condition, but some where cows are kept only for the purpose of making butter are far from satisfactory.

The new registers under the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922, are in course of completion.

Overcrowding.

Five cases of overcrowding have been successfully dealt with during the year: Earsham 1, Pulham Market 1, Tivetshall Margaret 1, Needham 2.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

No action taken.

Smoke Abatement.

No action taken.

Public Health Staff.

One part time Medical Officer of Health, and one full time Sanitary Inspector.

I beg to mention here that the Sanitary Inspector having obtained the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors was re-appointed permanently in October under the Sanitary Officers Order of 1922.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

By Local Authority		Nil
By private persons.	Bungalows	5
,, ,, ,,	Railway carriages converted into dwellings ...	2
,, ,, ,,	Army hut converted into dwelling	1
	Total	8

New houses in course of erection at 31st Dec., 1923	6
New Public Hall erected	1
Houses added to during year	10
Workshops built during year	5

1. Unfit Dwelling-Houses.

INSPECTION:

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	90
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	20

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 12

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	1

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:

(a) by owners 4

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil

C. Proceedings under section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act. 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders 7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing orders were made 6

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... 2

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

I take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. F. H. Bowden upon his academic success, and on his permanent appointment as your Sanitary Inspector, at the same time thanking him for his hearty co-operation during the past year.

Thanking you for the courtesy and consideration I always received from you during my ten years of office.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDERICK N. H. MAIDMENT,
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1. TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1923.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases sent to Hospital	Total Deaths	AGE GROUPS											
				Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65
Malaria	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	2	...	.	
Diphtheria	5	..	1	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever ..	40	...	...	1	1	2	1	2	12	10	3	4	4	..	
Enteric Fever ..	1	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...		...	...
Puerperal Fever ..	...		...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	..	.	...
Pneumonia ...	17		5	...	..	...	..	1	2	1	1	5	2	2	3
Erysipelas	3	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Trench Fever .	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...		..	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis M.	7	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	2	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis F.	9	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	2	1
TOTAL ..	16	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	7	2	4	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis M.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis F.	6	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	..
TOTAL ...	7	...	0	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	1	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...
Acute Polio-Myelitis ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	92	...	17												

Ratio of non-notified cases of Tuberculosis to Tuberculosis deaths 2 : 11

TABLE II. CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1923.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.	
	All Ages.	
	Males.	Females
All Causes { Males 114, Females 119		
Enteric Fever	...	...
Small-pox	..	..
Measles	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	..
Whooping Cough	...	...
Diptheria..	...	1
Influenza	1	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...
Meningococcal Meningitis	..	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	5	6
Other Tuberculous Disease	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	8	16
Rheumatic Fever	...	...
Diabetes	...	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	4	12
Heart Disease	21	35
Arterio-sclerosis	5	4
Bronchitis	11	5
Pnuemonia (all forms)	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	1	1
Diarrhœa, &c., (under 2 years) ...	1	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	1
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and Parturition	..	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation Premature Birth	11	3
Suicide	2	...
Other Deaths from violence ...	3	1
Other defined Diseases	35	21
Cause ill-defined or unknown	...	...
Special Causes (included above) ...		
Poliomyelitis	...	...
Polioencephalitis	1	..
Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Total ...	16	4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Illegitimate ..	1	1